

Message Text

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SUBJ: REMARKS UPON PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS I INTEND TO MAKE IN BANJUL UPON PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT JAWARA. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT CLEARANCE ASAP SO CHARGE MAY DELIVER COPY TO GOTG. THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF PRESENTATION PRIOR JAWARA'S DEPARTURE FOR 10 DAY VISIT, JAN 20.

2. MR PRESIDENT:

IT IS A VERY GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO RETURN TO THE GAMBIA. I AM ESPECIALLY HONORED BY THIS OCCASION TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LETTER BY WHICH PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON ACCREDITS ME TO YOUR EXCELLENCY IN THE CAPACITY OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. I AM ALSO INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT THE LETTER OF RECALL OF MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR AND GOOD FRIEND, AMBASSADOR G. EDWARD CLARK.

3. REPRESENTING THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THIS FRIENDLY REPUBLIC IS AN IMPORTANT CHARGE. I FULLY ACCEPT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. I SHALL WORK TO ADVANCE THE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS AS WE MOVE TOWRAD THE MUTUAL GOALS OF
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GREATER PEACE AND PROGRESS IN THE COMMUNITY OF

NATIONS.

4. THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A LONG AND INCREASINGLY CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE GAMBIA DATING TO THE FIRST ACCREDITATION OF AN AMERICAN CONSUL HERE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY. OTHER LINKS ARE EVEN OLDER. AS YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AWARE, A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS TRACE THEIR FAMILY ORIGINS TO VILLAGES ALONG YOUR GREAT RIVER. MY PERSONAL INTEREST IN YOUR COUNTRY GOES BACK MANY YEARS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO RENEWING MY ACQUAINTANCE WITH GAMBIANS I HAVE MET PREVIOUSLY IN BANJUL AND WITH OTHERS I HAVE COME TO KNOW IN THE COURSE OF THEIR VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. TODAY, AS CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS GROW, GAMBIAN STUDENTS ARE TO BE FOUND IN A NUMBER OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS CALCULATED TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPON THEIR RETURN. AT THE SAME TIME GAMBIAN PROFESSORS AND CREATIVE ARTISTS, DURING SOJOURNS IN THE UNITED STATES, ARE SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES AND WISDOM WITH AMERICANS OF ALL AGES WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO INCREASE THEIR COMPREHENSION OF AFRICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE.

6. IT HAS BEEN OUR PLEASURE TO WELCOME GAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERS TO OUR COUNTRY FOR A BRIEF BUT CONCENTRATED LOOK AT AMERICAN AND AMERICANS, TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING OUR COMMONLY HELD CONCEPTS, AND IN UNDERSTANDING OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS WHERE THEY DIFFER. YOU, MR PRESIDENT, HAVE BEEN OUR MOST DISTINGUISHED GAMBIAN GUEST. OUR LEADERS HAVE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE BENEFIT OF YOUR VIEWPOINTS AND YOUR WISE COUNSEL DURING YOUR VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND VARIOUS REGIONS OF OUR DIVERSE NATION.

7. MY PREVIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ENABLED ME TO OBSERVE THE GAMBIA'S ADMIRABLE EFFORTS, UNDER YOUR INSPIRING LEADERSHIP, TO DIVERSIFY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS ECONOMY, TO PROVIDE USEFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR ITS PEOPLE, AND TO DEVELOP LAND, RIVER, AND SEA RESOURCES. I AM PLEASED THAT OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE ACTIVELY ASSISTED IN ADVANCING THESE PROGRAMS, WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GAMBIAN OFFICIALS. I NOTE ALSO THAT IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO BRING EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES TO AFRICA'S DROUGHT-STRICKEN SAHEL

REGION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROVIDED FOOD TO THE GAMBIA DURING 1973 TO HELP ALLEVIATE YOUR CRITICAL GRAIN SHORTAGE. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO GAMBIAN HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BANJUL AND IN OUTLYING CENTERS.

8. MR PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES BEGINS THE NEW YEAR, 1974N WITH A REDEDICATION TO COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS IN THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD ORDER AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. WE VALUE THE CONSULTATION THAT HAS STRENGTHENED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GAMBIA IN THE PAST AND I WILL STRIVE TO REINFORCE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO A CONTINUING EXCHANGE ON BOTH BILATERAL QUESTIONS AND THOSE DEALING WITH A WIDE RANGE OF AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS.

9. AS I ASSUME MY NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, MR PRESIDENT, YOU MAY BE ASSURED OF MY DEDICATION TO TASKS OF STRENGTHENING THE MUTUAL RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA.

AGGREY

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